

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2009

The Honorable John Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
H-149, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Defense
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Murtha and Ranking Member Young,

This year, 200,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and 30,000 men will die from the disease. Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed non-skin cancer in the United States and the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men. More recently, health experts have noted an increase of prostate cancer among our nation's veterans who were exposed to defoliants. We write to ask the Subcommittee to provide \$125 million in FY 2010 for the Department of Defense (DOD) Peer-Reviewed Prostate Cancer Research Program (PCRP).

Since 1996, the Committee has been instrumental in advancing prostate cancer research by funding the DOD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program for prostate cancer. The DOD has a long history of performing medical research studies and because of its administrative structure has demonstrated an ability to be flexible and quickly adjust responses to changing needs and priorities. The PCRP is the gold standard in prostate cancer research and an integral warrior in the national fight against prostate cancer.

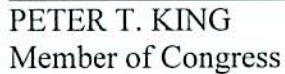
Federal funding for prostate cancer research has accounted for, on average, only 5 percent of our nation's annual cancer research budget while prostate cancer is responsible for about 15 percent of all cancer cases and about 15 percent of cancer deaths in men. The federal effort falls short of what is needed to save American lives.

For years, the program has advanced research with increasing efficiency. After 8 years of virtually flat funding, however, the program is unable to maintain consistent clinical trial studies and will be unable to help bring critical treatments to the men and their families who are fighting this disease daily. As you work on the FY 2010 defense appropriations bill, we strongly urge increased federal funding for prostate cancer research in order to wage an effective fight against this devastating disease.

We request a FY 2010 appropriation of \$125 million for the Peer-Reviewed Prostate Cancer Research Program at DOD to enable the program to maintain current levels of research, expand into innovative areas of study and conduct important clinical trials that will help to bring important research from the laboratory to the bedside.

Please join us in making prostate cancer research, awareness and early detection a national health care priority by ensuring that adequate resources are available for the DOD PCRP. We recognize the difficult task ahead of your subcommittee in setting priorities among the many needs of our nation, but we sincerely appreciate your attention to this request.

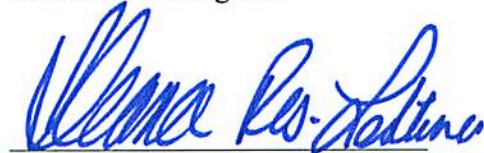
Sincerely,


PETER T. KING
Member of Congress



JIM MARSHALL
Member of Congress


BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress


DAN BURTON
Member of Congress


ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Member of Congress


DON YOUNG
Member of Congress


CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress


BOBBY SCOTT
Member of Congress


BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress

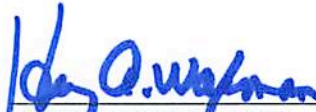

STEPHEN LYNCH
Member of Congress


JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress


BOB ETHERIDGE
Member of Congress



JIM GERLACH
Member of Congress



HENRY WAXMAN
Member of Congress



KATHY CASTOR
Member of Congress



TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress



ROSA DeLAURO
Member of Congress



MARY JO KILROY
Member of Congress



DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress



MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress



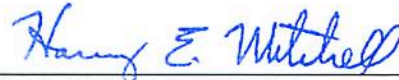
BRAD MILLER
Member of Congress



FRANK LoBIONDO
Member of Congress



DENNIS KUCINICH
Member of Congress



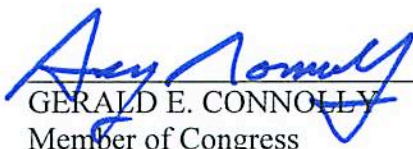
HARRY E. MITCHELL
Member of Congress



SANDER LEVIN
Member of Congress



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Member of Congress




GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress

1330


NICK J. RAHALL, II
Member of Congress


HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress


PETE STARK
Member of Congress


RON PAUL
Member of Congress



DONALD M. PAYNE
Member of Congress


FRANK PALLONE
Member of Congress


JOHN CONYERS
Member of Congress


ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress


JASON CHAFFETZ
Member of Congress


LEONARD LANCE
Member of Congress


DALE E. KILDEE
Member of Congress

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October